

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of February 25 - February 29, 2008**

- 1. Mayor Testifies:** Mayor Bruce Williams and City Attorney Susan Silber testified on Wednesday in opposition to a bill that would prohibit Sanctuary Cities in Maryland. On Thursday, Mayor Williams testified in support of the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, which would repeal the provision that specifies that only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid in Maryland and establishes that only a marriage between two people, not otherwise prohibited from marrying, is valid in Maryland. *(Deputy City Manager)*
- 2. Save the Date!** March 19 is the date of the Community Priority Setting Workshop regarding the Takoma Metro development. An open house begins at 6:00 pm and the program runs from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center. Look for the special insert in the March issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter for more information. *(Deputy City Manager)*
- 3. Takoma Park Elementary School Addition - Update:** The Montgomery County Public Schools submission of its plans for the proposed Takoma Park Elementary School Addition is now expected in early April, not March, as originally represented. Once the site plan and traffic study have been submitted to the Planning Board and the City, interested community members will be given an opportunity to review them prior to their presentation before the City Council. For more information on this process, please contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 4. "What Color is Your Trash Can?" Open House on Neighborhood Commercial Areas:** Stop by the Takoma Park Community Center Lobby Monday, March 10, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and let us know how you think our neighborhood commercial areas can become more attractive. This Open House builds on recommendations developed at neighborhood commercial area Master Plan vision review sessions held last spring. Commercial areas covered include Erie/Flower Avenues, Flower Avenue/Piney Branch Road, Sligo Creek/New Hampshire Avenue, Maryland Gateway (New Hampshire Avenue from Poplar to Eastern), Maple Avenue, and Old Takoma (Old Town & Takoma Junction). Attendees will be asked to help select small scale improvements such as landscaping and street furniture for installation this Spring. For more information, please call 301-891-7119. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 5. New Hampshire Avenue Community Greening and Gardening Meeting - Wednesday, March 12 (Wards 2, 3, and 6):** Interested in learning more about community gardens and greening opportunities along the New Hampshire Avenue corridor? If yes, please join us on Wednesday, March 12, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Avenue). For more information, call (301) 891-7119. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 6. Volunteers Needed!! Mini-Trail Rehabilitation - March 8 (Ward 4):** The Takoma Park Safe Routes to School Program is partnering with Takoma Park Middle School to clean up the small trail behind the school. If you are interested in volunteering for this project, join us at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 8, in the back parking lot of the Takoma Park Middle School near the tennis courts at 7611 Piney Branch Road. Be sure to wear your work clothes! Contact Lucy Neher at Lucyn@takomagov.org to sign up and for more information. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. Tenant Meeting Held at Victory Towers (Ward 1): Landlord-Tenant Mediation Specialist Moses Wilds, Jr. attended a tenant meeting that was held at Victory Towers on Thursday, February 28 at 2 p.m. Issues of common concern were discussed at the meeting, which was well attended by approximately 50 tenants. Applications for the Renters' Tax Credit Program were also distributed. Darcia Young, the Tower's Community Manager, was present along with Habitat America LLC's District Manager Linda Daly. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. Housing Department Offers Free Classes to Tenants: "Know Your Rights as a Tenant," a class specifically for tenants in Takoma Park, is being offered free of charge on Tuesday, March 18, from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Learn how to protect your security deposit, what to do when your landlord enters your unit without notification, and what to do if your landlord increases the rent above the rent stabilization allowance. To register, call 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. Free First Time Homebuyer Seminar: Are you preparing to become a homeowner? You will want to attend Takoma Park's First Time Home Buyer Seminar, which is being offered free of charge on Saturday, April 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center. Learn how to improve your credit score, obtain a mortgage, understand the terms of your loan, and what first time home buyer programs are available to purchasers in Montgomery County. The same program will be offered in Spanish on May 10. To register for the seminar, call 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. Public Art: The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission received 13 proposals in response to its recent call for public art. The individual proposals are to be presented for public review and comment on Tuesday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center. Additional information on the individual proposals will be posted on the City's web site prior to the planned presentation. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. Proposed Legislative Cuts to Governor's Budget: The City has been advised that the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) has recommended reductions in the state's 2009 budget that, if accepted by the budget committees, would significantly impact access to funds which have proven beneficial in local economic and community development efforts. Specifically, DLS has recommended cutting the Community Legacy program by \$1 million and the Neighborhood BusinessWorks by an equal amount. Both programs have been widely - and successfully - used in Takoma Park. The Neighborhood BusinessWorks has provided gap funding for new businesses and buildings, while the Community Legacy program has funded a variety of important projects including streetscape improvements and facade grants. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. Rock Climbing Trip: The Takoma Park Recreation Department took 12 participants - five adults and seven children - indoor rock climbing at Earth Trek's Climbing Center in Rockville on Saturday, February 23, for a Family Day Trip. Everyone had a great time and they are looking forward to going back and climbing on their own. *(Recreation)*

13. African American History and Quilts: In honor of Black History Month, the Silver Foxes Seniors Club left Takoma Park Community Center at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 and traveled to Baltimore to visit the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture. Twenty Seniors enjoyed a self-guided tour of the museum and lunch in the

museum cafe. The highlight of the day was a special exhibit of 64 beautiful jazz inspired contemporary African American quilts, titled Textural Rhythms - Constructing the Jazz Tradition. Seniors expressed positive opinions about the new museum and would recommend it to their friends. *(Recreation)*

14. Friends' Annual Meeting: The Friends of the Library will hold their annual meeting and Board election on Thursday evening, March 27, at the Library at 7:30 p.m. Positions are open for President, Vice President, Secretary and one or more Member-at-large positions. The evening's entertainment will be provided by internationally known storyteller, Arianna Ross, and refreshments will be provided by the Friends. All are invited to this family program, and current members of the Friends may vote in the election. Call the Library at 301.891.7259 for more information. *(Library)*

15. Bedtime Stories: Bedtime Story Hour resumes Monday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m. No need to pre-register for this program aimed at toddlers, pre-schoolers and their grown-ups. Call the Library at 301.891.7259 for more information. *(Library)*

16. Parent/Child Book Clubs: On Monday, March 10, members of local parent-child book clubs will meet at the Library to discuss how their clubs got started, how they choose their books, and how they manage book discussions. Call the Library at 301.891.7259 to pre-register or for more information. *(Library)*

17. The Wimpy T(ween): Books On March 14 at 4:30 p.m., the T(w)een Book Club for middle schoolers will meet to discuss "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" by Jeff Kinney. Copies of the book are provided by the Friends of the Library and are available at the front desk. You must pre-register and read the book before attending. *(Library)*

18. The Chief and Officers in Meetings:

- During the week of February 25 through 29, Chief Ricucci met with two candidates for the Chaplain position with the Takoma Park Police Department.
- On February 26, Chief Ricucci attended Family Night at Takoma Park Elementary School and, he and Mayor Williams read to the children.
- Also on the 26th, the Business Watch Meeting for businesses in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Community met. During these meetings, business community members have the opportunity to talk with police about their crime concerns and develop strategies to prevent and deter crime. Seven members from the business community, Takoma Park Police Department (A/Sgt. Richard Poole on behalf of Chief Ricucci), Prince George's County Police Department, the City of Takoma Park Housing and Community Development and CSAFE participated in the meeting. *(Housing and Community Development & Police)*.
- On February 27, Chief Ricucci, Lt. Bowers, Ms. Plevy and the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) met with the citizens to discuss public safety contacts and citizens on patrol.
- Also on the 27th, Chief Ricucci and Pfc. Paula Gaskin met with officer candidate, Charles Hoetzel, and offered him a position with the police department, to which he accepted. His first day will be March 3, 2008. The department is now one over complement as previously approved.
- On February 27, CSAFE staff, in partnership with Mr. Erwin Mack from the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Multi-jurisdictional Pedestrian Safety Committee, gave a presentation at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) building in Baltimore. Per the request of NHTSA, the presentation covered best pedestrian safety practices employed in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Community.

- On February 29, Chief Ricucci met with Safe Takoma to review their work plan. *(Police)*

19. Officers in Training:

- On February 25 through 27, S/Disp. Angelina Cannatella attended the Communications Training for officers in Springfield, Virginia. This training concentrated on how to be a good trainer, offered methods of teaching, liability and motivation; Denise Pullet attended the Records Management Systems (RMS) Training in Germantown, Maryland; and, Pfc. Pedersen and Pfc. Quante attended training entitled "Field Training Officer" in Frederick, Maryland.
- On February 25 through 29, Kyleen Luy, Crime Analyst, attended the Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training hosted by the Scottsdale, Arizona Police Department. The course focused on the many operational issues and statistical processes involved in designing and maintaining a dynamic crime analysis program. This was paid for by the State of Maryland.
- On February 28, Lt. Cipperly attended the MILES/NCIC re-certification training in Columbia, Maryland.
- On February 29, Lt. Cipperly attended the NCR-LiNX training with the Fairfax City Police Department, Fairfax, Virginia; Denise Pullet attended the E-Justice Workgroup session; and, Pfc. Black attended training entitled "Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement" in Sykesville, Maryland. *(Police)*

20. Traffic Enforcement:

Officers conducted at least 145 traffic stops, which resulted in some citations, six (6) vehicle impounds and one (1) DUI arrest.

During the week of February 22-29, the following details were completed:

- Ethan Allen Avenue (speeding) - conducted three (3) details for four and a half hours (4.5) hours and issued five (5) warnings and seven (7) state citations.
- Ethan Allen and Jackson (stop sign) - conducted a thirty (30) minute detail and issued one (1) warning.
- New Hampshire Avenue - conducted one (1) detail for one (1) hour and issued one (1) warning and one (1) state citation.
- 4th and Poplar - conducted a one (1) hour detail and issued five (5) warnings.
- 1300 University Boulevard (pedestrian enforcement) - conducted a one and a half (1.5) hour detail and issued eight (8) warnings. *(Police)*

21. The Newsletter: The March edition of the City Newsletter will be delivered to the post office today, February 29, for delivery to all City residences over the next few days. It is also available on the website at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/news/index.html>. An insert is included in the newsletter regarding the March 19 Community Priority Setting Workshop. This insert provides background material and a questionnaire designed to solicit feedback on next step. This questionnaire is also available online. The link is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro. *(City TV)*

22. Snapshots: The latest edition of Snapshots is finally available for viewing on-demand on the City website. Segments this month include: Community Oriented Policing: Crime Prevention Tips for Residents; Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Highlights; and, Student Art Exhibit in the Community Center. You can view this program at the following link: http://takomapark.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=60. *(City TV)*